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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,335	06/30/2003	Haru Ando	500.42880X00	8770
24956 7590 07/09/2007 MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C. 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 370 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER FRISBY, KESHA	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,335

Applicant(s)

ANDO ET AL.

Examiner

Kesha Frisby

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,7 and 9-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,7 and 9-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

After the amendment filed on 4/17/2007, claims 1, 3, 7, 9-15 are pending. Claims 14 & 15 are newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atsushi (Publication Number 09-149894: English Computer Translation from the Patent of Abstracts of Japan) in view of Ho et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,944,530) and Fumio (Publication Number 09-149894: English Computer Translation from the Patent of Abstracts of Japan).**

Referring to claim 1, Atsushi discloses starting up a learning program in said information processing apparatus (abstract: problem to be solved); continuously acquiring, as said learning program progresses, measurement information of a blood flow rate in a brain a user of said information processing apparatus, said measurement information being obtained from near infrared measuring device through information acquiring means (abstract & Drawings 1-3 & 6 & associated text); acquiring input information and

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operation information given by said user to said information processing apparatus through input means, wherein the input information and the operation information indicate progress of said learning program (optical brain function measurement device 17 is inputted to an arithmetic unit 21 & Field of Invention). *Atsushi does not teach acquiring audio or video information said of said information processing apparatus through at least one of a microphone and camera connected to said information processing apparatus; and judging a degree of concentration of said user on said learning program using said measurement information and displaying said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with said progress of said learning program.* However, Ho et al. teaches acquiring audio or video information said of said information processing apparatus through at least one of a microphone and camera (digital camera 180) connected to said information processing apparatus (Fig. 2B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include acquiring audio or video information, as disclosed by Ho et al., incorporated into Atsushi in order to monitor student inputs and take numerous images of the student's face in order to determine whether the student is attentive. *Atsushi/Ho et al. does not disclose judging a degree of concentration of said user on said learning program using said measurement information and displaying said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with said progress of said learning program.* However, Fumio teaches judging a degree of concentration of said user on said learning program using said measurement information (Constitution, Drawing 1 & the associated text) and displaying said degree of concentration of the user

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and said attention information of the user with said progress of said learning program (image display device 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include judging a degree of concentration, as disclosed by Fumio incorporated into Atsushi in order to determine whether the student is attentive.

Referring to claim 3, Atsushi discloses acquiring concurrently, through input means, information contents executed in a connected terminal (abstract), information of a blood flow rate in a brain of a user of said terminal (abstract & Drawings 1 & 6 & associated text); analyzing rate change hemoglobin concentration from said blood flow rate (for example, paragraph 0006: hemoglobin concentration change). *Atsushi does not disclose acquiring concurrently operation information and input information given said user to said terminal, acquiring audio or video information said of said information processing apparatus so as to obtain attention information of said user through at least one of a microphone and camera connected to said terminal; and judging a degree of concentration of said user on said information of contents, and displaying said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with corresponding time of said information of contents.* However, Ho et al. teaches acquiring concurrently operation information and input information given said user to said terminal (column 3 lines 28-31 & column 7 lines 23-25); acquiring audio or video information said of said information processing apparatus so as to obtain attention information of said user through at least one of a microphone and camera (digital camera 180) connected to said terminal (Fig. 2B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to include acquiring information, as disclosed by Ho et al., incorporated into Atsushi in order to monitor student inputs and take numerous images of the student's face in order to determine whether the student is attentive.

Atsushi/Ho et al. does not disclose *judging a degree of concentration of said user on said information of contents, and displaying said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with corresponding time of said information of contents*. However, Fumio teaches judging a degree of concentration of said user on said information of contents (Constitution, Drawing 2 and the associated text), and displaying said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with corresponding time of said information of contents (image display device 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include judging a degree of concentration, as disclosed by Fumio, incorporated by Atsushi/Fumio in order to determine whether the student is attentive. Referring to claim 7, Atsushi, as modified by Ho et al. and Fumio, teaches giving notice to said user of said terminal in accordance with a result of said step of judging said degree of concentration (column 10 line 66-column 11 line 56 and more specific column 11 lines 34-47 of Ho et al.).

Referring to claims 9 & 10, Atsushi, as modified by Ho et al. and Fumio, teaches further comprising a step of judging whether said input information is a correct answer to an exercise included in said learning contents or not is further provided (column 12 lines 17-30 of Ho et al.); and wherein said step of judging a degree of concentration also uses a result of the step of judging whether said input information is a correct answer

(column 10 lines 23-25 & column 12 lines 31 & 32: the examiner views this limitation as whether the concentration degree ranges from low, medium to high of Ho et al.).

Referring to claims 11 & 12, Atsushi, as modified by Ho et al. and Fumio, teaches displaying, on a display, information of said learning contents (monitor 178), said rate of correct answers for each exercise included in said learning contents (column 11 lines 6-8 of Ho et al.), said rate of correct answers being obtained from the result of the step of judging whether said input information is a correct answer (column 11 lines 6-8 of Ho et al.).

Referring to claim 13, Atsushi discloses a near infrared measuring device (measurement device 17), terminal connected said near infrared measuring device (external device 23) for measuring a blood flow rate in a brain of a user of said terminal (abstract); wherein said terminal includes: means for continuously acquiring measurement information from said infrared measuring device (abstract & Drawings 1-3 & 6 & associated text); display for displaying said contents information received from said server (it is inherent that a computer has a display); input means for accepting input instructions and operation instructions for said displayed contents information, input means for accepting input instructions and operation instructions for said displayed contents information, wherein the input instructions and operation instructions indicate progress of a user's learning of the contents information (Constitution, Drawing 1 & the associated text); wherein said server further includes; a storage for storing inputs from said input means, said measurement information from said near infrared measuring device, said acquired audio or video information as attention information of

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the user, and said displayed contents information at corresponding times in association with one another (storage 22). *Atsushi does not disclose a server connected to said terminal through a network, wherein said server includes a recording means for recording contents information and means for acquiring audio or video information of said user so as to obtain user's attention information, means for judging a degree of concentration of the user on the contents information, based on said measurement information from said near infrared measuring device; and means for displaying to said display said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with corresponding time of the contents.* However, Ho et al. teaches a server (server computer 152) connected to said terminal (column 3 lines 16-20) through a network (column 3 lines 33-35 & network 120), wherein said server includes a recording means for recording contents information (column 3 lines 49-53) and (column 3 lines 28-31 & column 7 lines 23-25) and means for acquiring audio or video information of said user so as to obtain user's attention information (digital camera 180). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include acquiring information, as disclosed by Ho et al., incorporated into Atsushi in order to monitor student inputs and take numerous images of the student's face in order to determine whether the student is attentive. *Atsushi/Ho et al. does not disclose means for judging a degree of concentration of the user on the contents information, based on said measurement information from said near infrared measuring device (Constitution, Drawing 1 & the associated text); and means for displaying to said display said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with*

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corresponding time of the contents (image display device 13). However, Fumio teaches means for judging a degree of concentration of the user on the contents information, based on said measurement information from said near infrared measuring device (Constitution, Drawing 1 & the associated text); and means for displaying to said display said degree of concentration of the user and said attention information of the user with corresponding time of the contents (image display device 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include judging a degree of concentration, as disclosed by Fumio, incorporated into Atsushi/Ho et al. in order to determine whether the student is attentive.

Referring to claim 14, Atsushi, as modified by Ho et al. and Fumio, teaches wherein said video information of the user is acquired as facial information or head behavior information of the user, and said camera judges as to whether the user is present in front of the screen or not, the direction of the head of the user, and expression of the user (column 9 lines 13-35 of Ho et al.).

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atsushi/Ho et al./Fumio and further in view of Shpiro (U.S. Publication Number 2002/0150869).

Referring to claim 15, Atsushi/Ho et al./Fumio discloses a learning condition judging program according to claim 1. *Atsushi/Ho et al./Fumio does not disclose wherein said audio information of the user is acquired as text information which is extracted from voice of the user through said microphone.* However, Shpiro teaches wherein said audio information of the user is acquired as text information which is extracted from

voice of the user through said microphone (paragraph 0040). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a microphone, as disclosed by Shpiro, incorporated into Atsushi/Ho et al./Fumio in order to display what the user is saying on the screen.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see amended claims 1 & 3, filed 4/17/2007, with respect to 35 U.S.C.101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of 35 U.S.C. 101 has been withdrawn.

11. Applicant's arguments filed 8/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In reference to the applicant's argument, "there is no teaching or suggestion in Atsushi of the learning condition judging program executable in an information processing apparatus and system for judging a learning condition" (pages 10 & 13). This is a preamble limitation were there is no recitation in the body of the claims of any structure, thus the body does not "breathe life" into the preamble of the claim. In addition, the applicant argues that Atsushi teaches away from using conventional input means, such as, a keyboard or mouse is true. However, the argument is not persuasive because Atsushi uses electrodes attached to the head of a user to acquire input and operation information. The applicant also argues that Atsushi does not disclose acquiring audio or video information through at least one of a microphone and camera connected to the information processing apparatus. This is also true because Ho et al. teaches this limitation. This was stated in the previous Office Action dated 1/18/2007. The Ho et al. reference was not used to show that the microphone and/or camera were

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used as controlling functions. The Ho et al. reference was used to show the monitoring function that Ho et al. provides. Therefore, the applicant's argument in regards to teaching away is moot.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kesha Frisby whose telephone number is 571-272-8774. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Wed. 7-3pm & Thurs. - Fri. 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Kathleen Mosser
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714


Kyf 7/3/2007